GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:365
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
REDUCTION IN POVERTY LEVEL
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for the reduction of poverty level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed and achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the specific steps being taken by the Union Government to achieve the set target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V.RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 365 REGARDING REDUCTION IN POVERTY LEVEL BY SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD AND SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.04.2005.

(a) & (b) : The Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) for the first time has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

(c): There was no target fixed for reduction of poverty level in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d): The Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

(e): The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii)human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti- poverty programmes.

With effect from June, 1997 the Public Distribution system in India was streamlined by issuing special cards to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) and selling food grains under PDS to them at specially subsidised prices which was about 50% of the economic costs. Under the new scheme, viz., the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) each poor family is entitled to 35 kgs of foodgrains.

In order to make the TPDS more focused and targeted towards the very poor category, the `Antyodaya Anna Yojana` provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2 per kg., for wheat and Rs.3 per kg., for rice. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore(BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005.

In order to alleviate poverty in rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing two major employment generation Schemes namely programmes i.e. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY) a wage employment and self-employment programmes respectively. The Indira Awas Yojana(IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor. The Government have also launched a new wage employment Scheme namely National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 states of the country to generate supplementary wage employment and providing employment in these districts.

The primary objective of the SGRY scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in rural areas. The SGRY is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desired to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village/habitat.

The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGS) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income

generating assets through a mix of Bank credit and Government subsidy.

The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor, free of cost. It has an additional component, namely, conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to semi pucca houses. Further, a Credit-cum-subsidy for rural housing was launched from 1.4.99 targeting families having annual income up to Rs. 32,000?

The National Food for Work Programme has the objective to provide additional resources to 150 most backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and provision of food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts is further intensified. Foodgrains are provided to the States free of cost. Works are taken up under the programme in accordance with the Five Year Perspective Plan.

For urban areas the poverty alleviation scheme, which rests with the Ministry, is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The programme targets the urban poor, defined as those living Below the Poverty Line, as defined from time to time. This programme relies on creation of suitable community structures and delivery of inputs through the medium of urban local bodies and such community structure. It is funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the States. The Programme is applicable to all urban towns in India.The Programme is implemented on a whole town basis with special emphasis on urban poor clusters.

In addition to this, the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), and National Slum Development Programmes (NSDP) which are meant for providing shelter/upgradation of shelter and environmental upgradation for the urban slum dwellers, also contribute indirectly towards poverty alleviation.